



Lionel Richie wowed and vowed to return to Aruba!

The second installment of the fifth annual Aruba Music Festival saw the Entertainment Center in Dakota packed as it has never been before as music legend Lionel Richie took the stage this past Saturday night. Concert promoters considered in a coup that Richie had agreed to perform in Aruba, and the megastar of the last three decades did not disappoint.

Attendees that traveled from fourteen countries for the concert were treated to not only all the mainstays of Richie's long career, such as "Hello," Oscar-winning "Say You, Say Me," and the dynamic "Running with the Night," with which he started the show, but also his new hit single "I Call it Love" from his latest release "Coming Home."

Lionel Richie proved himself the consummate showman during not only the concert, but previously while fielding questions from the press at a "Meet and Greet" held in the Radisson Ballroom the same afternoon. His responses to questions revealed him to be an erudite intellectual with strong concerns for and gratitude to his admiring fans, and a believer in family values. He expressed to be particularly impressed with Aruba and claimed, "I have been traveling the world for thirty years doing concerts, and it is amazing to me that it took me *this long* to get to Aruba. The first thing that happened when we stepped off the plane, the lady said to me when I arrived "Welcome Home," and I thought "Well, this is *ridiculous*. It has taken me this long to get to Aruba, and in all the years I have been taking vacations I have to wonder how in the world did I miss this place? I will say to you now, this is my first time coming here, but it is not my last."

Richie's pleasure in thrilling his audience was evident as he joked and interacted with the throng, giving a performance that was worth the time and expense to travel the distance to see him. The ebullience of each number was shared by all, and it was the kind of concert that would leave those attending with a memory they will treasure and talk about long after.